



Illustration by John H. Rumely,  
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## ***CIRSIUM BREVISTYLUM*** **SHORT STYLED THISTLE**

Short-styled Thistle is a perennial with thick, succulent, sparingly branched stems that are 40-250 cm high, arising from a taproot. The clasping, alternate leaves are pinnately lobed or toothed with spines along the margins. Foliage is thinly to densely covered with tangled white hairs. A few short-stalked flower heads are clustered at the tips of the stems. Each head is 2-4 cm high and has 2-3 series of linear, nearly non-overlapping involucre bracts that are sparsely to densely covered with long, tangled hairs; the outermost of which have short, erect spines. There are numerous tubular, purplish red disk corollas that are 16-24 mm long. Ray flowers are lacking. The seed has a pappus. Flowering in June-July.

The purplish flowers and the very narrow, tapered involucre bracts without a greatly thickened midvein separate this species from the other native *CIRSIUM* species in our area.